IN THE CLAIMS

The following claims have been presented previously with parenthetical status notations. An instruction line precedes each claim that is amended by the instant paper.

1. [ORIGINAL] A peptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1);
RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2); and
RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

2. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] A composition comprising one or more of the following peptides:

RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1);

RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2); and

RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3),

and a carrier.

3. [ORIGINAL] The peptide of claim 1 having the amino acid sequence: RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1).

4. [ORIGINAL] A composition comprising the peptide of claim 3 and a carrier.

5. [ORIGINAL] The peptide of claim 1 having the amino acid sequence: RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2).

6. [ORIGINAL] A composition comprising the peptide of claim 5 and a carrier.

7. [ORIGINAL] The peptide of claim 1 having the amino acid sequence: RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

8. [ORIGINAL] A composition comprising the peptide of claim 7 and a carrier.

9. [ORIGINAL] The peptide of claim 1 wherein said peptide has antimicrobial activity.

10. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The peptide of claim 1 wherein said peptide has antimicrobial activity in a low salt medium.

11. [ORIGINAL] The peptide of claim 1 wherein said peptide has antimicrobial activity in physiologic salt

12. [ORIGINAL] A solid phase substrate comprising at least one peptide selected from the group consisting of:

RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1);

RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2); and

RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

13. [PREVIOUSLY AMENDED] The solid phase substrate of claim 12 wherein the peptide is RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1).

14. [ORIGINAL] The solid phase substrate of claim 12 wherein the peptide is RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2).

15. [ORIGINAL] The solid phase substrate of claim 12 wherein the peptide is RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

16. [ORIGINAL] The solid phase substrate of claim 12 wherein said solid phase is a prosthetic device.

17. [ORIGINAL] The solid phase substrate of claim 16 wherein said prosthetic device is a prosthetic joint.

Please **amend** claim 18 as follows:

18. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The peptide of claim 1 wherein said peptide further comprises at least one additional cysteine residue.

19. [ORIGINAL] The peptide of claim 18 wherein said peptide is a disulfide linked dimeric peptide.

20. [ORIGINAL] A peptide-cargo complex comprising a cargo and a peptide selected from the group consisting of:

RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1);

RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2); and

RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

21. [ORIGINAL] The peptide-cargo complex of claim 20 wherein said peptide has antimicrobial activity and said cargo increases the antimicrobial activity of said peptide.

Please **amend** claim 22 as follows:

22. [CURRENTLY AMENDED, PREVIOUSLY RENUMBERED] A method for inhibiting microbial growth comprising ~~administering~~ contacting a microbe with an antimicrobially effective amount of at least one peptide selected from the group consisting of:

RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1);

RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2); and

RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

23. [CURRENTLY AMENDED, PREVIOUSLY RENUMBERED] The method of ~~claim 23~~claim 24 wherein said peptide inhibits microbial growth in *in vitro* cell cultures.

24. [CURRENTLY AMENDED, PREVIOUSLY RENUMBERED] A method for inhibiting microbial growth in a subject comprising administering to the subject an antimicrobially effective amount of at least one peptide selected from the group consisting of:

RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1);

RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2); and

RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

25. [PREVIOUSLY RENUMBERED] The method of claim 24 wherein said peptide is administered topically, enterally or parenterally.

26. [PREVIOUSLY RENUMBERED] The method of claim 22 or 24 wherein said peptide is attached to a solid phase substrate.

27. [PREVIOUSLY RENUMBERED] The method of claim 22 or 24 wherein said microbial growth is resistant to antibiotics.

Please **add** new claims 28-45 as follows:

28. [NEW] An antimicrobial compound comprising a peptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1); RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2); and RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

29. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 28, wherein said peptide has the amino acid sequence: RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1).

30. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 28 , wherein said peptide has the amino acid sequence: RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2).

31. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 28 , wherein said peptide has the amino acid sequence: RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

32. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 28, wherein said molecule has antimicrobial activity in a low salt medium.

33. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 28, wherein said molecule has antimicrobial activity in physiologic salt

34. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 28, wherein said molecule further comprises at least one additional cysteine residue.

35. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 34, wherein the peptide comprises two cysteines that are disulfide linked to each other.

36. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 34, wherein said peptide is a disulfide-linked dimeric peptide.

37. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 28, further comprising a cargo.

38. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 37, wherein the antimicrobial activity of said molecule is higher than the antimicrobial activity of said peptide alone.

39. [NEW] The antimicrobial compound of claim 37, wherein the cargo is selected from the group consisting of an antibacterial enzyme, an antibiotic, and a drug.

40. [NEW] A method for inhibiting microbial growth comprising:

contacting a microbe with an effective amount of at least one antimicrobial compound comprising:

a peptide selected from the group consisting of RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1); RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2); and RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

41. [NEW] The method of claim 40, wherein said contacting is performed in *in vitro* cell cultures.

42. [NEW] A method for inhibiting microbial growth in a subject comprising:

administering to the subject an antimicrobially effective amount of at least one antimicrobial compound comprising:

a peptide selected from the group consisting of RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRIL (SEQ ID NO: 1); RVIRVVQRACRAIRHIVRRIRQGLRRILRVV (SEQ ID NO: 2); and RWIRVVQRWCRAIRHIWRRIRQGLRRWLRVV (SEQ ID NO: 3).

43. [NEW] The method of claim 42 wherein said peptide is administered topically, enterally or parenterally.

44. [NEW] The method of claim 40 or 42 wherein said peptide is attached to a solid phase substrate.

45. [NEW] The method of claim 40 or 42 wherein said microbial growth is resistant to antibiotics.